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INDONESIA & EAST TIMOR: POWER AND IMPUNITY
NEW AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Amnesty International today launched **Power and Impunity**, a major report on human rights violations throughout Indonesia and East Timor.

Amnesty International's report is a comprehensive analysis of the systematic and widespread nature of human rights violations in Indonesian and East Timor. It covers armed opposition and the government's counter-insurgency tactics, law and impunity, political killings, torture and deaths in custody, political imprisonment and unfair trial, the death penalty, and recent Indonesian Government human rights initiatives.

Power and Impunity is being published in 10 languages including Bahasa Indonesia and it is also being published electronically on major computer networks.

The Indonesian Government's much vaunted era of new political openness, which began in 1989, has spurred journalists, students and political activists to demand greater political freedom and respect for human rights, only to find themselves banned, jailed or "disappeared".

Dramatic violations -- including mass killings -- have occurred in East Timor and other regions where the government faces armed opposition such as Aceh and Irian Jaya. Yet human rights violations are pervasive throughout Indonesia, even in areas commonly portrayed as stable and harmonious such as Java and Bali.

While the government argues that human rights violations are isolated incidents or the work of a few poorly-disciplined soldiers, they are in fact the byproduct of a network of institutions, procedures and policies which the government uses to crush perceived threats to stability and order.

In recent years the government has taken some measures to counter criticism of its poor human rights record. However, it has failed to address the root causes of violations.

The Indonesian Government has until recently largely escaped international condemnation of its human rights record as many governments have uncritically accepted arguments about "Asian values" and "development", ignoring clear evidence of systematic human rights violations and the domestic calls for improvements in human rights.

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